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CALIFORNIA GARDEN



IN THIS NUMBER

FLOWERS AND LANDSCAPE GARDENS
IN JAPAN
CONIFERS FOR SAN DIEGO COUNTY
PLANTING
JACARANDA OVALIFOLIA

JULY, 1927

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No. 1

Flowers and Landscape Gardens in Japan^{*}

By T. Wayland Vaughan

Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography
University of California, La Jolla, California.

[Editor's Note. At the June meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, Dr. Vaughn delivered a lecture on Flowers and Landscape Gardens in Japan. There was so much favorable comment on the lecture that Dr. Vaughn was requested to allow us to publish it in the Garden. He has kindly consented to this and part of the lecture appears in this issue, the balance to follow next month.]

^{*}This article, except for some minor changes and editorial corrections, was published in the La Jolla Flower Journal in April, 1927.

Any understanding of the Japanese treatment of flowers and their landscape gardening needs as its foundation some knowledge of the artistic and intellectual traits to the Japanese and some knowledge of their cultural history.

One of the charms of a visit to Japan is to see the love of the people for all scenes of special beauty. Wherever there are unusually picturesque views, positions from which they may be seen to the best advantage have been selected and prepared for visitors. There are such places above the shores of Matsushima, where the Japanese will be found quietly enjoying the quaint, small pine-clad islands that dot the placid waters of the bay. There are similar lookouts below the waterfalls near Nikko, above the shores of Lake Biwa, and at other places too numerous to mention. There are pilgrimages in the spring to see the cherry blossoms; and in the autumn to view the gorgeous colors of the autumnal foliage. This enjoyment is confined to no age or class. Mothers take their babies and small children to see the beauties of nature; and the school children make pilgrimages for long distances. The love of beauty does not diminish with increasing age, and it is a common bond of sympathy and understanding between the high and the low. These people love the flowers, the forests, the birds, the insects, the streams, the rocks, the waterfalls, and the seasons with their changes and the thoughts and musings they suggest.

The Japanese dwelling house has within it only a few ornaments exposed to view. There may be on the upper part of the wall a painting and an example of writing with the brush, both stretched on frames, with the longer sides

horizontal, and there is an alcove in which hangs a kakemono, a painting on silk mounted on brocade, and to one side of it a flower arrangement, and there are a few decorated screens, a few pieces of lacquer, and a bronze ornament. On the floor there are mats and cushions; a low table, perhaps of lacquer; a dwarf tree; and a brazier. These are about all that will be seen, but every article will be a gem—in some houses, each article is a priceless treasure. The Japanese who have many possessions do not clutter their houses with many things so that none may be properly enjoyed, but exhibit only a few at a time. The others are kept in storage.

They eat their meals off small individual lacquer tables, out of vessels of lacquer and china, all beautiful in design and of exquisite workmanship.

Love of beauty and art permeates the entire life of the people. Stewart Dick says in his "Arts and Crafts of Old Japan", "In an aesthetic sense the people of Japan are cultured to a degree far beyond our Western standards; their arts are full of beauties which are too subtle, too refined, for our comprehension."

Another attribute of the Japanese is their fondness for symbolism and for minute and precise nomenclature. This is revealed in their flower arrangements, the tea ceremony, and their gardens, and it is present apparently in nearly everything they do about which an outsider can gain any understanding. A result of so much symbolism is the establishment of a great number of conventions which are meaningless except to the initiated—and many, if not most, of the Japanese themselves belong to the uninitiated regarding many things. An illustration of the minuteness of their nomenclature is shown by that the landscape gardener's recognition of "one hundred and thirty-eight principal stones and rocks having special names and functions, in addition to others of secondary importance". "There are some fifty stones that bear the names of Buddhist saints, and have their appropriate positions and interrelations in monastery gardens". But, we may

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be thankful that knowledge of so much detail is not necessary for the enjoyment of the beauty of a Japanese garden.

The great art development of Japan is concurrent with the introduction of Buddhism from Korea in 552 A. D. This is true of architecture, sculpture, painting, and landscape gardening and its accessories. Landscape gardening seems, however, to have received attention about the beginning of the Christian era, when a shrine was erected to the god of gardening.

Since the Japanese treat flowers and landscape architecture in several different ways, a few words will be said about flower culture, flower arrangement, and the grand landscape architecture of the palace and temple settings, before paying detailed attention to their gardens.

Although the Japanese are past masters in flower culture, there are few or no flower beds in their gardens, except lilies, iris, and lotus, all associated with water. While I was in Japan I had an opportunity to see a number of *Chrysanthemum* exhibits, including the one at the Imperial Annual *Chrysanthemum* party.

The variety of *Chrysanthemums* is bewildering. Their blossoms range in size from that of a small button to six inches or more in diameter. The blossoms may be large balls of fluffy petals or they may consist of only a ring of ray flowers around a central disc.

There are many varieties in which the petals are so narrow as to be filamentous. The large heads are supported by wire frames with a paper disc immediately below the flower. The colors range from pure white, through cream and ivory and pearly lavender to deep yellow and purple or lavender and two colors may be combined in one flower, for example the petals may be yellow tipped with red.

There may be single blossoms at the ends of tall stalks, or branches may rise from a single stem and the whole plant may attain a diameter of eight or ten feet, and bear as many as 1000 individual blossoms, each several inches in diameter. The separate branches of the giant plants need special supports. One of the especially attractive growth forms is that of a cascade from a hanging basket. The plants may be trained into a variety of grotesque forms.

The finest show I saw was the one at the Imperial *Chrysanthemum* Party; the next in excellence was at the Nara Club, but the exhibitions in Hibiya Park, Tokyo, and at the Commercial Museum, Kyoto, were very attractive. The last two exhibitions were open to the public and I found the quiet enjoyment of the multitudes of visitors about as interesting as the wonderful displays of flowers.

Besides *Chrysanthemums*, other flowers are cultivated by fanciers. One gentleman, whose house and garden I visited, is both an orchid and an iris fancier, and has houses arranged so that the temperature could be controlled, as desired. There was a cool, a medium-temperature, and a warm house.

In connection with flower culture, flower arrangements, an art by itself, needs mention. There are at least four major types of flower arrangement. One is an attempt to represent a landscape by branches, stems or trunks, and flowers. In this way a distant mountain, a stream flowing from it, a waterfall, rocky bands, and bordering vegetation may be suggested. A second is the symbolical representation of the relation of man to earth and heaven. A third is a more informal arrangement of flowers of one or a few kinds. And a fourth is the tray landscape garden, in Japanese the *bonkei*. Flower arrangement is taught the children. I visited in Kyoto a flower school, 1000 years old, and I saw in the same city an exhibit of flower arrangements. To become an artist in flower arrangement requires long and careful study and much practice. There is one of the accompaniments of the tea ceremony, which in turn is an accompaniment of the gardens.

In nearly every garden there is a small house devoted to the tea ceremony. Not all tea is ceremonially served, but especially among the aristocratic Japanese the tea ceremony is still preserved and practiced. Although I have attended at least two ceremonial teas and have carefully read numer-

ous accounts of the ceremony, I have only general information. The ceremony is another development due to the Buddhist priests. The same man was often a master of the tea ceremony, and an artist in flower arrangement and landscape gardening, a poet and even a painter. Everything connected with serving ceremonial tea is according to rule, the arrival of the guests, their entrance into the room, which is of precise dimensions and arrangement, and their conduct after taking their positions on the cushions. All of the utensils used in serving are of definite kinds, some very costly, for everything must be of the highest excellence. Every step in making the tea and serving it is prescribed and the conduct of the guests must conform to rules. The tea ceremony is an aesthetic cult which is intended to exclude all unworthy thoughts and to develop the highest and best in the nature of man. At first the outsider may be struck mostly by the formality of everything connected with the ceremony, but a little study of the conditions under which it developed, the period of sanguinary conflicts between rival chieftains, and the consideration of the significance of each step in its performance, should produce in him feelings of sympathy and appreciation. The tea ceremony is one of the beautiful products of old Japan—and it still has its place in the rush and struggles of modern life.

Although I could not fully appreciate the opportunity offered me, I am grateful that I was privileged to attend a ceremonial tea in commemoration of Sen-no-Rikiu, on the 335th anniversary of his death, in the house in which he lived, and now occupied by Mr. Soushita Sen, a member of the fourteenth generation lineally descended from him. I also walked in his garden, in which some of his planting still survives. Sen-no-Rikiu was a great artist, a master of the tea-ceremony and flower arrangement, and one of the foremost of the landscape gardeners of Japan. Because he had incurred the displeasure of Hideyoshi he died by his own hand on November 21, 1591.

(To be continued in August issue)

PLANT SPECIALISTS VISIT SAN DIEGO

The Misses McAfee of San Gabriel were calling on local nurseries last month. Rock garden plants, perennials and annuals and "Old Fashioned Gardens" are their specialty.

Mr. Fred McKenney, proprietor of the Overbrook nursery at Sherman, near Beverly Hills, called over the 4th. His specialty is specimen plants for patios and fine pottery jars. He uses aloes, agaves, cacti, sedums and plants suitable for Spanish gardens and walls.

K. O. S.

CONIFERS FOR PLANTING IN SAN DIEGO AND VICINITY

By J. G. Morley.

On several occasions I have written articles about conifers that would thrive in this section of California, conditions for planting trees of this type are improving continually, as the city and surrounding areas are being built up and developed, the garden situation is also keeping pace with these improvements, and in many instances cover much larger areas than heretofore giving abundant room for the planting of trees.

Conifers have not been planted extensively because of the dry dusty conditions that formerly prevailed, the foliage being of a resinous character would not shed the dust during the summer months, hence the trees presented a dirty and unkempt appearance, the paving of streets and highways is rapidly changing these conditions and will enable the coniferous trees to thrive and present a cleanly condition at all seasons of the year.

This article will be about Cedars and allied trees. The true Cedars comprise three varieties native of Asia Minor, North Africa and the Himalayas. *Cedrus Deodora*, the Himalayan Cedar, is the most graceful in habit and has been more extensively planted in California than the others. It thrives luxuriantly, and on good soil with plenty of water is one of the finest coniferous trees in existence. It will also grow satisfactorily under adverse conditions of soil and when established is very drought resistant. The branches are long and pendulous with dark bluish green foliage. Several horticultural varieties of this tree have been developed, all of which are worthy of planting. At the Beverly Hills Nursery, near Los Angeles, several new types were developed by Mr. J. J. Reeves during his incumbency as superintendent, both in pendulous and compact habit of growth. The finest example of the character of these trees may be seen along a large avenue at Altadena, large groves in Elysian Park, Los Angeles, and Balboa Park, San Diego. As an individual specimen it is one of the finest ornamental conifers, and utilized in many instances as a live Christmas tree during the holidays, and should be planted more for that purpose.

Cedrus Atlantica from North Africa is of more upright and rigid growth, makes a beautiful tree grown in good soil with plenty of space, its columnar habit and characteristic growth with its glaucous foliage of a silvery hue tends to give it a distinction all its own among the conifers. It deserves to be planted more extensively than at present; several very fine specimens, planted 25 years ago, are growing on the west boundary of Balboa Park adjacent to Sixth and Quince, and are typical of the varied types of this beautiful tree.

Cedrus Libani, Cedar of Lebanon. This tree is well known in religious and historical literature. It is a native of Asia Minor and North Africa; its habit of growth is not as graceful as the preceding varieties, however when grown to a large tree with its rugged and charming characteristics, gives it an individuality all its own. During my visit to France, three years ago, I had the pleasure of seeing several very large and beautiful specimens of this lovely tree in the vicinity of Orleans. From appearances they must be over 100 years old. In California this variety has been very sparsely planted; it should be planted more extensively; while of slow growth it is a beautiful acquisition to our parks and gardens.

Libocedrus Decurrens, Incense Cedar, also known as *Thuja Gigantea*, a beautiful conifer, native of the Sierra Madre and Sierra Nevada Mountains in California. A handsome, erect growing tree of columnar habit and beautiful foliage; grows to a height of 140 feet, with a straight stout trunk. Twenty-five years ago this tree was planted extensively in parks and large gardens and many fine specimens are to be seen throughout the state; several very fine specimens are growing in the Cuyamaca Mountains in their native habitat and may be observed when driving along the road between Julian and the southeastern boundary of the mountains. There are several other varieties of *Libocedrus* natives of South America and New England, but not as well known as our native *Libocedrus decurrens*.

Juniperus Virginiana, Red Cedar. This conifer grows extensively east of the Rocky Mountains from Canada to Florida. It is a beautiful evergreen tree and known generally as Virginian Cedar. There are many varieties of this fine tree nearly all of which are very ornamental as well as producing fine timber. As a park or garden subject it is worthy of extensive planting where plenty of space is provided. It will withstand hard pruning to keep it from making too much spread and for that reason is worthy of a trial.

FLORAL ASSOCIATION OFFICERS RE-ELECTED

At a meeting of the directors of the Floral Association, held June 23rd, Mrs. M. A. Greer was unanimously re-elected president, Mr. Walter Birch vice-president, Mr. A. S. Hill secretary and Mr. B. L. Elliott treasurer. R. R. McLean was appointed editor of the California Garden for the ensuing year, with Mr. A. D. Robinson and Miss Mary Matthews as associate editors.

21ST ANNUAL FALL
FLOWER SHOW
Sept. 3rd, 4th and 5th

MYSTERIOUS MISTLETOE

From the Twilight of the Gods it comes, the "Tree of Mist," the mysterious Mistletoe. It looks a fateful, fatal plant, with its wan leaves and ghostlike berries, this "Bane Bush," as folk of old called it.

In Norse mythology, it was with a sprig of Mistletoe, flung at the bidding of wicked Loki, that Hodur, the blind god, slew Baldur the Beautiful. And for that crime Freya, Mother of Life, set it apart, suspended between heaven and earth.

The Druids saw the Mistletoe hang, mystic, luminous, and worshipped it for that very strangeness, gathering it with many rites on the shortest day, December 21st. Caught, before it touched the ground, in the outspread robes of the Chief Druid, it was separated into small portions and divided amongst the worshippers, who carried it home and hung it over their house-doors, as a protection against winter dangers.

So here is one reason why Mistletoe finds a place in our homes at Christmas. But why do I—we—they—he and she kiss under it?

Going back to the Norse legend, we find that Freya's spell ordained that the "kiss of peace" must be exchanged under the plant, to salve the woes which fell upon the world with Baldur's death, and for this reason the Druids called it "All Heal."

Amongst the Franks, the plant was still regarded as a peacemaker. If mortal enemies met beneath the tree where the Mistletoe hung, a truce was declared, for no blood must be shed there.

When Christianity spread northwards, the Church adopted and adapted many pagan rites, and, amongst others, it was long the Christianised practice to exchange a "kiss of peace" under the Mistletoe, at a certain point in the service for Christmas Day.

Yet, even so, it was looked upon as an uncanny plant. "Tree of the Cross" they call it in Brittany, and legend said that the Cross was made from Mistletoe-wood, when it grew as a forest tree, and that for this dis-service to mankind, it was condemned to be a thing apart.

Soon the Mistletoe relapsed into paganism. It was banished from the churches, and from church decorations, yet it retained its potency as a "Kissing Bush." That kissing was conducted as a joyous ceremony in Elizabethan days, when each swain, as he kissed must pluck off a berry, and, when there were no more—why, no more kisses!

A pale shadow of that old ceremonial kissing still survives; and even yet, at Christmas the Mistletoe hangs between heaven and earth, in the glaring light of shops, in the moonshine of country orchards, a wistful strange plant, holding its own secrets and its own counsel—still mysterious.—Violet M. Methley.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

The July and August Gardens

BULB INDUSTRY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

By S. B. Osborne.

Along the north coast of San Diego County flanking the coast highway, from Solana Beach northward to Oceanside, the growing of flowering bulbs is assuming the proportions of a major horticultural industry. While other localities contribute somewhat to the bulb production of San Diego County, this north coast district produces a large majority of the annual output, the principal reasons for this being the ideal climatic conditions, favorable alike to growth of bulbs and earliness of flowers, and the wonderful physical condition of the soil, which is a well drained sandy loam. While it is out of the question to find a location favorable in every respect to all types of flowering bulbous stock, it would be difficult to name any place more favorable to the growing of a general line of bulbs. In passing it is well to note that all corms, tubers and rhizomes of flowering plants are generally referred to in this article as bulbs.

The Federal quarantine regulations, prohibiting the general importation of certain types of bulbs, particularly those of the narcissus genus, have given considerable stimulus to the industry in this county inasmuch as imported bulbs, heretofore, were used almost entirely in this country to fill the needs of the florists, for forcing, and the nurserymen for retail sales. The bulb industry in this county first centered around Carlsbad but during the last three years, with the development of the coast country south, including South Coast Park, Encinitas and Solana Beach, the industry has expanded to include this entire district. Here bulbous stock may be seen in bloom every day in the year, for before the last dahlia bloom has withered and fallen the earliest flowering China lily or crocus of the ensuing season has burst into bloom, one kind following another in rapid succession, each seemingly striving to eclipse the other in loveliness and flamboyant effect, thus making an endless season of colorful beauty.

While a number of the bulb species extend their flowering season over a long period, the gladiolus if properly grown and handled stands without a peer in this respect, blooming every day in the year in this district. However the majority of the species have a fixed blooming season which varies but little from year to year. The natural blooming season is ushered in by the first blooms of the China lily, following closely by the Paper

(Continued on page 9)

THE GARDEN

By Walter Birch.

While summer heat up to this date (July 1st) has been conspicuous by its absence, it is easy to see that even pretty thorough sprinkling with the hose does not have a very lasting effect, so either lay the hose down and give a good soaking or run the water by furrow long enough to give the desired result, which means, of course, wetting the soil to a good depth, being careful to cultivate thoroughly afterwards, leaving a fine surface.

Do not neglect the growing vegetables. Keep the ground well worked around them and plant some more sweet corn and beans. Set out tomatoes for late crop and if you have not already done so, set out some strong plants of parsley, mint, sage, thyme and chives. They are all easily grown and are a wonderful help to the cook.

In the flower garden, boost the dahlias along by thorough watering and fertilizing. A basin round each plant filled with manure is the best plan.

Continue to set out zinnia and aster plants, likewise pentstemon, petunias, salvia and others. They will all repay you with plenty of blooms until late in the season.

July is a good month to sow your seed for next winter, spring and summer blooming. It takes more care to grow than at this season, but you will be rewarded by having stronger plants and better blooms, and your perennials will surley bloom for you next spring and summer. By the middle of July you can begin to plant Purity Freesias, they make pretty borders or clumps and will do better on the north side of the house or where there is some shade. The freesia is an attractive flower, fine for cutting and delightfully fragrant. Of late years the colored freesia is much in evidence and some of them are very pretty, California, bright golden yellow, Carrie Badou, lavender pink and Olivette, bright carmine red with bright yellow throat are three good ones.

Don't let up on the garden pests, I find Snarol very effective for snails, and slugs, and as it is mixed and ready to use, all you have to do is to follow the printed directions on the package. Mr. McLean endorses Sharol for the cut worm also, and the cut worm is certainly one of the worst pests. He lies so near his food, usually just under the surface close to the growing plant he intends to de-

(Continued on page 9)

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

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R. R. McLean
Associate Editors
Miss Mary Matthews
Alfred D. Robinson

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EDITORIAL

The GLADIOLUS EXHIBIT at Rancho Santa Fe, July 2, 3 and 4, was notable in that it consisted chiefly of seedlings originated by A. R. Sprague, Horticulturist of Rancho Santa Fe, and never before shown; the one exception being the famous Orchid variety, which was shown in 1926. More than 150 distinct varieties were placed and classified by color in masses of reds, pinks, of all shades, bronze, orange, yellows, and whites, with rich intermediate shades. Number 204 was a large dark blue, solid color, the only one the writer has ever seen or heard of.

Another very sensational thing was the Tulip,—tulip in form and with the very distinctive tulip color—a silvery pink blending with lavender with light yellow broadly spread in some florets on the upper cup shaped petals and in the others below. Truly as a sporting proposition the Gladiolus has no rival. "The Tulip" is the second New Type gladiolus that the Rancho Santa Fe Bulb Company has had the good fortune to introduce—the Orchid being first.

As the seedling area from which these varieties were cut has been blooming for four weeks, many of the most striking varieties were past blooming, making it most remarkable that so large an exhibit could be staged from one trial ground.

The dark shades in the graceful primulinus, lilac, violet, dark rose and rich magenta with orchid like throat, were most unusual, as this type is usually found in pink, salmon, yellow and red.

Some very interesting results of crossing the Orchid with other varieties were shown, especially the large azalia like flower, from crossing the Orchid on Giant White.

A class of Petites of many varied colors was shown. Small, and most delicately beautiful, surely destined to have a place in Gladioli like the Pompoms in Dahlias.

The remarkable vigor of these large form seedlings was shown by a length of spike of 30 inches with some varieties, and four to six spikes on a single stem.

Mr. John White, Jr., contributed a beautiful bowl of "The Orchid" interwoven with sprays of Acacia and Athel and also placed some of his beautiful seedling dahlias.

Flower lovers were present in large numbers from San Diego, La Jolla, Escondido, Del Mar and the near coast towns and all seemed very greatly interested.

The whole exhibit was most tastefully placed by Mrs. Ruth Nelson.

Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Hodges, of San Barbara, who pronounced it the most delightfully beautiful exhibit of Gladiolus they had ever seen.

Many people took down the numbers of varieties which they particularly admired, awaiting the time when they may be purchased.

BULB PLANTING INSPECTED

As a prior condition to intrastate and interstate shipment of narcissus bulbs, according to regulations issued by the California State Department of Agriculture and the Federal Horticultural Board, these bulbs must be inspected by representatives of the County Horticultural Commissioner several times during the growing period and again, if necessary, after digging.

If for intrastate shipment all narcissus bulbs must be given the hot water sterilization treatment if found infested with bulb nematodes, or they may be vacuum fumigated (for bulb flies) if no nematodes are found. Either hot water sterilization or vacuum fumigation is a necessity, however, for intracounty or intrastate shipments. If for interstate movement, shipments may be made upon the basis of treatment given last season and the absence of infestation of either nematodes or bulb flies this season, based upon official inspections.

Indicating the thoroughness with which such checks are made it may be said that from January 1st to May 5th, 1927, the County Horticultural Commissioner's office made approximately 676 inspections in the field prior to digging, covering 289 lots and representing the stock of 47 growers. These growers are located as follows: San Diego, 1; Pacific Beach, 3; Chula Vista, 7; National City, 2; La Mesa, 3; Cardiff, 3; South Coast Park, 12; Carlsbad, 6; Oceanside, 1; Solana Beach, 1; Rancho Santa Fe, 1; Encinitas, 3; and El Cajon, 1.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

Thirty-four plantings were found entirely free from bulb nematodes and 13 were partly infested; 219 lots were found to be clean and 70 to be infested. Of the 70 infested lots, 27 were not treated prior to plantings, 39 were treated, one was shipped in from another county on certification as uninfested stock and 3 were given the hot water treatment in another county prior to being shipped in.

The 39 treated lots still showing infestation represent only 3 growers, 2 of whom have grown their stock for a number of years and had an unusually heavy infestation of nematodes. The third grower planted his stock back on land adjoining an old infestation and undoubtedly this was responsible for reinfestation as other lots of the same stock on new land were found to be clean.

In addition to the foregoing, after some experimental work over 100,000 gladiolus bublets were treated with hot water as a precautionary measure against the common garden nematode, which is known to infest gladiolus.

It appears reasonable to conclude from the above inspection record, that the hot water treatment, if continued, will finally reduce bulb nematodes to a minimum, providing, of course, treated stock is not replanted in infested ground. The case of bulb flies is not so clear, as many lots of bulbs treated last season were found to be re-infested this year. From observations made last season, however, it is fairly obvious that growers were careless in handling bulbs after treatment and did not screen or protect them from re-infestation as they should have done. The lesser bulb fly is about the size of the common house fly and will readily lay eggs on any narcissus bulbs left exposed. In warm weather the eggs quickly hatch into maggots which bore into and destroy the bulbs after they have been planted.

The growing of narcissus and other bulbs in San Diego County is of considerable economic importance and will undoubtedly continue to be an industry of increasing magnitude, but growers will have to learn to use approved pest control methods and sanitary measures if they are to continue to make a success of the business.

There is no definite record of the amount of bulbs produced in San Diego County last year, but records in the Horticultural Commissioners' office show that some 55 tons of narcissus bulbs alone were given the hot water treatment. If one can venture a prediction, it is to the effect that in time to come more narcissus and gladiolus bulbs will be raised in this County than anywhere else in the State.

WEATHER PREDICTIONS

A clipping appeared in the May issue of the Garden on "Garden Barometers and Clocks", which, as might have been expected, caught the eye of Dean Blake, the official forecaster of the U. S. Weather Bureau at San Diego and a valued contributor to this magazine. Mr. Blake was (undoubtedly!) so impressed with the uncanny forecasts made by certain flowers and plants that he makes the following comment:

"Now we surely know what weather to expect for long periods in advance, as the writer says, many of the signs never fail. But murder will out and as a professional forecaster is supposed to have his 'aches and pains and pet animals and infallible signs', I am enclosing some which I can vouch for as well as the author, Josh Billings. Put this in your desk and forecasting becomes easy, I know."

Least some of the younger generation of Garden readers have not yet had time to become acquainted with Josh Billings, his weather forecast is herewith appended. Mr. Blake himself, as will be noted above, has given it at least a Scotch verdict.

Sum Signs ov Infallible Weather

When roosters are observed before daylight in the morning, soreing among the klouds, and uttering lamentashuns, then look out for sum sudden weather, and a severe pucker in the money market.

When yu see 12 geese, walking injun file, and toeing in, yu kan deliberately bet yure last surviving dollar on a hard winter, and a grate fluktuosness during the next season in the price of cow hide boots.

If pigs squeal in the night, and grasshoppers cum oph ov their roost, and mingle in a free fight, yu may hope for high winds in a few weeks, and also the typus fever in yure naberhood.

The barkin ov dorgs, the jawing ov kats, and the bellowing ov elephants, is a sure prognastykuss ov a dri spel, and a big bean crop.

When spiders are seen climbing up the wall backwards, and frogs cough az tho they had the kickups, look out fur rain; this iz also a sure sign that children will have the meazles light.

If bees hang around their hives, and mules are seen in a brown study, a storm ov sum kind iz cooking, and yu will notis the market for herring iz very cadaverous, and shifty.

Jist before a hevvy sno storm, ov 3 foot deep, chimblly swallows are unkommon skarse, and in the moral world there is a grate lazyness in the agytashun of the temperance question.

When hens lay 2 eggs a day, and men cease tew brag, and wimmin cease tew cackle, then injun summer draws ni, and the millenium aint fur oph.

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

Sept. 3rd, 4th and 5th

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

JACARANDA OVALIFOLIA OR MIMOSAE-FOLIA

By Miss Kate O. Sessions.

This is the large, spreading, blue flowering tree that has been blooming about our city since the latter part of June and is well worthy of more extensive planting.

This tree is a native of Brazil and its name is also Brazilian. It ranks among the 100 best flowering trees for subtropical regions and although well known in Florida it is a great success in height (50 feet) in Southern California. Its flowers are tubular and are arranged in large sprays and it belongs to the great Bignonia family. Our 2 fine vines, *Bignonia chere* and *venusta* are its cousins, as are also the several good *Tecomas* we grow, both of shrubs and sturdy vines.

The oldest Jacaranda trees in the city are conspicuous on First street near Hawthorn and Juniper; on Fir near 2nd, 6th and Redwood; the N. W. corner of Redwood and 2nd and Quince and 1st. Near the Mercy Hospital and on Sunset Boulevard near Alameda there are several. There is a large group in the N. W. corner of Balboa Park near the north end of Pershing Drive, but the soil is so poor and the land so sloping that they are all invalids and need to have dynamite to loosen up their dinner supply. You can't have a big growing tree without a big supply of good food, which means a big hole full of good soil and a reasonable supply of water. The good hole is the most necessary adjunct for successful planting.

There has never been a street planted to the Jacaranda here. There is one in Hollywood, Los Angeles, that I know of and we should have several here. Probably the Pacific Beach section is the most promising location because of the depth and quality of soil and the evenness of the grade of the land.

The Pink and Golden Shower trees are a tremendous asset to Honolulu, but the people there will tell you when you admire those trees, "Oh! but you should see the Jacaranda in bloom, it is so beautiful with its blue flowers."

All garden lovers are partial to blue flowers, and this is for us the grandest of such flowering plants. The foliage is large and like a beautiful fern leaf. Its habit is to drop its leaves the latter part of April or early May and send out its sprays of flowering buds, and as the flowers begin to develop and show color. The new foliage is out in all its fern-like beauty which adds much to its glory. The tree needs staking and judicious pruning to develop a good straight trunk, and its top become large and spreading with age. I have seen old trees in Los Angeles with the trunk over a foot in diameter. Its location in the home garden is an important and serious question. One should anticipate its future development and so enjoy and pre-

serve it when full grown. A tree needs to be 4 to 6 years old to show fine bloom. Then it looks as though a dark blue cloud had settled down on the garden and among the trees. The 2 oldest trees have been on Coronado between 2nd and 3rd Ave. and the tree will flourish there, but not close to the ocean. The new central parking space lately planted by the city on Normal street, leading north from University, has the Jacaranda for its only arborescent tree along a gently winding pathway and shrubs everywhere else. In time the effect will be excellent. The tree is quite sensitive to frost and in Los Angeles they are frequently severely cut back. They should not be planted in any low and frosty location.

TO A JACARANDA

Lovely exotic Jacaranda Tree,
Amid the palms you proudly lift on high
Your leafy crown of fern-like foliage,
Beneath the glory of an alien sky.

Under the golden glances of the sun
Your boughs with countless blossoms bud
and blow,
At night above your delicate fringed leaves,
Their silver lace the moonbeams lightly
throw.

The gentle winds sometimes your branches
stir,
Perchance from your green glooms the
southern breeze
Brings whispers of songs or clash of castinets,
The phantom echoes of great memories.

Decked in your panoply of purple plumes,
Magnificent in regal state and stand,
Matchless and beautiful beyond compare,
A queen in exile in a foreign land.

LILA MONROE TANTER.

The *Agapanthus umbellatus* or Blue African lily is blooming from June till August and is one of the most satisfactory perennials. It requires so little attention, is evergreen and hardy, the clumps increasing yearly in size and beauty. There is a white flowering variety pretty in contrast with a clump or two. The *Agapanthus* makes a fine row along a drive or broad path and is excellent for a corner. As a foreground for clumps or rows of the pink *Belladonna* lily it is perfect. The latter blooms only when its foliage is deciduous and the sturdy leaves of the *agapanthus* hide the nakedness of the pink lily. At the residence of Mrs. Edith Williams on Sunset Boulevard is a fine showing of *Agapanthus*, bordering the path to the lath house. *Agapanthus* makes an excellent tub plant for a large porch or patio; also looks well near a pool.

K. O. S.

BULB INDUSTRY OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

(Continued from page 5)

Whites and the glorious Soleil' d'Or, all of these being narcissus of the polyanthus type. Vying with polyanthus narcissus are the crocuses, Chionodoxa or Glory of the Snow, Anemones, Ranunculus, Freesias and Calla Lilies. January yields the first blooms of the graceful bulbous iris, and the beautiful daffodils. Soon thereafter the entire district is aflame with innumerable bulbous stock in gala array. Snowflakes, ornithogolum or Star of Bethlehem, Fritillarias, Muscari or Grape Hyacinth, Scillas, Oxalis, Sparaxis, Ixias, Amaryllis, Watsonias, Hyacinths, Tulips, Jonquils, Yellow Callas, Tuberoses and later the Vallotas, Hemerocaltis, Agapanthus, Monbretias, Hyacinth Candidum, Zephranthis, Lilies and Dahlias, all of these blooming in riotous confusion make an indelible impression on the mind of a lover of flowers.

Among the outstanding attractions, to the writer, during the past season were a field comprising approximately an acre of vigorously growing anemones with a blending of colors marvelous to behold, a lot of about seventy-five thousand gladiolus seedlings hybridized and grown by one of the foremost gladiolus specialists in California, a strain of ranunculus of matchless size and beauty which has been worked up with infinite patience and care by one of the pioneer bulb growers of the district, a field of lilies gleaming white in contrast, a background of blue delphinium, the remarkable new freesia Mendota, deep golden yellow, with a wiry stem attaining a length of fifteen to eighteen inches, other wonderful new colored freesias in various hues of yellow, orange, lavender and pink, all beautifully blended and harmonized the exquisite fragrance that permeates the air in the vicinity of a large planting of freesias, and above all a view at a distance of a large block of Spanish and Dutch iris, which individually or collectively are unsurpassed for sheer loveliness and grace.

The bulb acreage at present in this district is around one hundred and fifty acres of which about sixty acres are planted to gladiolus, for which there is a constantly increasing demand for forcing. Freesias, which are also increasing rapidly in popularity for forcing, come second with thirty to thirty-five acres. This dainty flower is being used to replace the paper white narcissus, which is both high and scarce due to the Federal quarantine. Narcissus plantings come third with about twenty acres planted, while the balance of the acreage is made up of a miscellaneous collection of other bulbs.

To insure the shipment of clean bulbs, free from disease and insect pests and to prevent the indiscriminate distribution of diseased stock within the county, the Horticultural

Commissioner of San Diego County, R. R. McLean, maintains a special inspection service covering the bulb acreage of the entire county. There has been installed two bulb sterilization plants, operated under the supervision of the Horticultural Commissioner, one at Encinitas and one at Chula Vista. During the past year fifty-five tons of bulbs were sterilized at these plants. After this treatment or certification of inspection, the bulbs are allowed free movement to any point in the United States as stock apparently free from insect pests and plant disease.

While this industry is at the present writing in its mere infancy, it is only necessary to see the tremendous growth it has made during the past five years to visualize a prosperous future. It is surely destined to take its place among the successful horticultural industries of San Diego County.

THE GARDEN

(Continued from page 5)

molish that any bait set out for him has to be very carefully placed, so that it is at least as easy for him to find it, as the plant.

Many of the Rosarians round San Diego are quite enthusiastic over a somewhat new spray for mildew, black spot and other fungus diseases on their rose bushes. Fungtrogen is the name of this spray and, as well as being a very effective fungicide it is also a foliage and flower fertilizer and stimulant, so much so that many eastern rosarians attribute much of their success at the rose shows, to the use of this spray. The same manufacturers also get out a spray called Insectrogen which gets the insects that prey on the roses as well as the fungi.

July, August and September are hard months on the lawn, so don't neglect to use a little fertilizer and plenty of water.

TO BRING OUT FLOWER PERFUME

Have you ever had a bunch of Violets or some other flowers that should be fragrant and been disappointed to find that they were hardly perfumed at all? Here is a way of inducing them to give out their scent to the fullest possible extent. Arrange the flowers to be treated in a bowl of water and then stand this in the center of a large dish. Now, on to this pour scalding hot water, and, without delay, cover the whole thing with a dish cover, a large box, or anything similar. Leave everything just as it is for half an hour and then remove the cover. It will be found that the warm damp air has had a wonderful effect on the flowers and that they are now delightfully fragrant if of a fragrant kind. The effect of this treatment will last for a good many hours and in many cases until the flowers fade.—S. Leonard Bastin.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 21, 1927

The past year has seen the Floral Association active in carrying on the good work which it undertook twenty-one years ago. That its influence is felt throughout the State is shown by the number of kind words and the scarcity of unkind expressions received by the secretary during the year just closed.

The high standard set by the editors of the California Garden has made of the magazine a thing to be looked for as the months roll around and a source of help and encouragement to the amateur gardener—especially in Southern California. Many new members and subscribers have been added during the year; and some have dropped out. On the whole, the subscription list shows a healthy gain.

The monthly meetings were held regularly, with the exception of the month of February, when the winter rain was too severe for even that hardy product—the California Gardener—to turn out; and in addition to the regular meetings, many visits to private gardens in and around San Diego were made. These little side trips, one might call them, add a zest to membership life and are thoroughly enjoyable. The thanks of the Association are due to those who have thrown open their homes in true hospitality to its members and friends.

Among the many good speakers provided by the Program Committee, the members had the honor and great privilege of meeting and hearing Mr. L. H. Bailey, president of the National Scientific Association of Horticulture and author of Standard Cyclopedia of Horticulture.

The Fall and Spring Flower Shows were both successful—not only from the standpoint of excellence of exhibits, but from a financial standpoint as well. In addition to these shows, several exhibitions of somewhat minor importance were held—notably, the Chrysanthemum Show of October 26th.

At the meeting of June 5th, 1926, the following directors were chosen: Mr. Walter Birch, Mrs. John Burnham, Mr. B. L. Elliott, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, Mr. Robert R. McLean, Mr. John G. Morley and Miss Alice Halliday.

The officers chosen to serve for the year were: Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president; Mr. Walter Birch, vice-president; Mr. B. L. Elliott, treasurer and Mr. A. S. Hill, secretary.

To the president, vice-president, treasurer and to the board of directors should be given the credit for a most successful year's work, which will undoubtedly spur the Association on to even greater accomplishment during the year upon which we are now entering.

A word of commendation for the excellent service rendered the Association by the House Committee is not out of place in this

report. Refreshments were served at all regular meetings but one during the year and on some special occasions; and in addition thereto, this committee also took care of the interior of the Floral Building.

It is needless to add, as a closing remark, that most of the hard work has fallen on our president, Mrs. Mary A. Greer; but then, that's the penalty we pay for popularity, distinction and honor.

A. S. HILL, Secretary.

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held in the Floral Building, in Balboa Park, Tuesday, June 21st, 1927, at eight o'clock p. m.

Mrs. Mary A. Greer called the meeting to order, and after a few remarks stated that the meeting would listen to reports of the Secretary and Treasurer for the past year. Mr. A. S. Hill then read the secretary's report, which was followed by the report of the treasurer, Mr. B. L. Elliott. As these reports both appear in full elsewhere in this issue, any comment thereon would seem unnecessary.

The chair then stated that the next order of business would be the election of a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year; and called for a report from the nominating committee. The following names were submitted by that committee:

Mr. Walter Birch;
Mrs. John Burnham;
Mr. B. L. Elliott;
Mrs. Mary A. Greer;
Miss Alice Halliday;
Mr. Robert R. McLean;
Mr. John G. Morley;
Mr. Sidney Hill.

The chair having called for other nominations, and there being none, upon motion, duly seconded, nominations were declared closed. Upon motion, seconded and carried, the secretary was instructed to cast the ballot of those present for the persons nominated. The secretary having reported the ballot cast, as directed, the chair declared the foregoing nominees to have been duly elected directors to serve the Association for the ensuing year.

Mr. McLean, editor of the California Garden, then made a plea for new contributors to the columns of the magazine. He paid high praise to those who are at present contributing articles; but thought that new ones would be of interest to readers of the "Garden".

The chair then introduced Dr. T. Wayland Vaughn, Director of Scripps Institute of Oceanography, who delivered a most entertaining paper on Japanese Gardens; pointing out the difference between theirs and our own gardens; and dwelling upon the methods employed to bring out desired effects in

beauty of design and arrangement of color. His paper was supplemented by lantern slides showing in color many delightful designs and elaborate gardens of the masters of the art in Japan. Dr. Vaughn's paper and illustrations were proof of the Association's desire to give to its members the best to be had in matters horticultural, or otherwise; and this particular evening will remain a pleasant memory to all who were fortunate in being there. At the close of the address, Mr. A. D. Robinson exhibited a choice collection of Japanese Iris—the perfection of that flower having been spoken of in Dr. Vaughn's paper and shown on lantern slide. A vote of thanks was extended to Dr. Vaughn for his valuable contribution to the evening's entertainment.

Very delightful music was furnished at intervals during the evening—songs by Mrs. L. L. Rowan to harp accompaniment by Miss Kathryn Thompson being received by an enthusiastic audience, and contributing greatly to the evening's enjoyment.

At the close of the meeting, the House Committee sustained its reputation for serving refreshments par excellence, by providing a most delicious fruit punch with cookies. Interest in this particular feature of our regular meetings seems never to be lacking. Whether we have among our number specialists in that line, I am not prepared to state with authority; but personally I strongly suspect we have. At any rate, the punch disappeared, everyone seemed happy and a most pleasant meeting is here recorded.

A. S. HILL, Secretary.

JAPANESE BEETLE INVADES PENN- SYLVANIA

The Japanese beetle, first found in New Jersey, in 1916, has invaded Pennsylvania and now occurs in all of Philadelphia, part of Berks, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware counties, according to LeRoy Front in the "Service Letter" of the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters. This insect's average outward spread from the center of introduction has been from 5 to 15 miles yearly.

More than 200 different species of plants are known to be attacked to varying degrees by the beetle. Many of our common shade and forest trees are listed among these. Some trees that are entirely defoliated are linden, elm, horse-chestnut, willow, sassafras, white oak and chestnut.

The beetles are able to procure food from most of our forest and shade trees, but they show a preference for light which leads them to seek more open and brilliantly illuminated areas. This fact makes it more likely that the beetles will occur more in the open than in the forested regions, thus protecting to some extent the forest trees from this insect.—American Forests.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

San Diego Floral Association, for the Year
1926-1927

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand as of July 9, 1926	\$	474.87
Received since, on account of:		
Received since, on account of:		
Memberships	\$	398.00
Subscribers		465.23
Advertising		313.50
Sales		30.70
Redeposits		30.00
Cancelled warrants		3.00
Miscellaneous		3.50
Silver offerings, etc.....		24.05
Flower Shows	1,240.95	2,508.93
Total to be accounted for		\$2,983.80

DISBURSEMENTS

Expense of Flower Shows	\$	808.46
Current Expenses		304.17
Dishonored checks		15.00
Service charge, Bank of		
Italy		1.00
Expense of Monthly Meetings		69.48
Publication of California Garden	1,638.00	
Subscription to Floral Magazines		17.00
Return of Deposit to cover dishonored check		15.00
Total Disbursements..		\$2,868.11

Balance on hand..... \$ 115.69

Respectfully submitted,
B. L. ELLIOTT, Treasurer.

CONTRIBUTIONS SOLICITED

Literary contributions, not monetary. The California Garden is edited and published through the volunteer effort of members of the San Diego Floral Association. No one in any way connected with the magazine, either editorially or as contributor, receives any pay for his services. We are therefore entirely dependent upon the free will contributions of members of the Association and its friends. We want to make the California Garden as interesting and valuable as possible and to that end solicit contributions from those who have had garden experiences that will be helpful to others or those who have special knowledge of particular subjects. Especially would we be glad to hear from foreign readers.

May we not have contributions from new writers, or from those who send in articles but rarely?

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

LATH HOUSE MATTERS

By Alfred D. Robinson.

With many thousands of plants in pots and baskets needing water, it is rather curious that the watering pot is so singularly and aggravatingly incompetent, though it range from the small painted green tin affair we present to our children to the galvanized monster that spills gallons over plants, paths and persons, without fear or favor. A few years ago I stood over a cunning tinsmith while he built out an efficient spout on a gallon sprinkler and ever since it has been the cause of envy and malice till finally at the last La Jolla show where I foolishly took it, some one's resistance to evil suggestion broke down and my can, my only can, disappeared. I go into this in some detail in the hope that palsy or at least pimples have overtaken the erring one and regeneration is at work and my can on the way home. I have a substitute which I made by soldering a piece of my plumbing on to another can, but it is rather drunken and cannot stand alone unless tanked up. Seriously one of these long spouted cans is almost a necessity in the lath house and I am sure a light pipe with an easy working shut off to regulate the flow fastened to a hose coupling would be more than useful, I shall try one the next time I get a chance to rape the plumbing.

This watering question seems so simple that any fool could manage it, and I suspect it is because it is done by so many qualifying in that class that I am asked all the time to recommend a nozzle that will not allow the waterer to deal the plants a series of knock outs. There is no nozzle that I have ever tried that fits all the demands in ever so small a lathhouse. A fan shaped affair with small holes like the rose of a sprinkling can is good as far as it goes, it reduces the force and is admirable for a general bath, that is a superficial one but it is useless where growths cover the receptacle in which they are growing. Oh yes, I know you do it perfectly with your thumb, and I can manage passing well if I don't mind a dribble down my sleeve and a drip on my shoes and more or less wetness in other places, and I always let go the pressure at the wrong moment and shoot the top off my pet plant, or it gets to be my pet real quickly when the top flies off.

I have found this simple watering thing quite complicated, only this season has it dawned that soaking a potted plant however thoroughly, is only half the operation, it needs to be watered from the top as a final act, because the soaking from below has a tendency to puff up the soil and leave it too loose. To press it down when wet is not practical. The shallow round galvanized tubs called, I believe, ice pans, are excellent for dipping pots, they are easily handled and when not in use for dipping make acceptable

carriers.

The watering of flats in the early stages of the seedlings has presented the greatest difficulty. Only a very fine rose can be used on the sprinkler and only a little water given at a time and yet it is vital to get moisture right to the bottom of the soil. Dipping is effective but slow and not always possible, so I have formed the habit of going over the flats three times with a little sprinkler I stole from my four-year-old, I do not feel any shame at this confession for she has stolen systematically from me, and takes care to retain title by pointedly remarking, "That is my sprinkler," every time she catches me using it.

Plants of the same species and size and in the same soil and container do not use the same amount of water, I have one seedling Rex Begonia that can drink all its brethren under the table and then swear it is so dry it can't spit sixpence. Efficient watering is individualistic not communistic and aside from this, location is a vital factor. On my benches filled with wet sand are shelves raised only four inches and these shelves have no sand cover and on them pots will dry out in half the time those only four inches below will, just a floor of wet sand makes that difference, though the shelf is raised only four inches above the sand. These benches run East and West, so far in the Season the South face has dried out first, now it is about even. There are spots where a current of air flows regularly, there also are dry spots.

I have taken all this space with water, its uses, abuses, etc., because I have had again to explain why I don't put a perfectly good automatic sprinkling system in my lath house. I won't do it and I am not any more going into a detailed account of my reasons, it should be answer enough to take a look at a lath house after a good heavy rain and then imagine it raining at short intervals all the time.

I have before referred to the Indian Scientist, Sir Jagadis Bose, who has spent years studying plants and invented instruments to show that they have emotional reaction similar to animals. Macmillan & Co., New York, have now his book detailing his experiments called *Plant Autographs and Their Revelations*, and it should prove a good \$2.50 worth.

This is Tuberous Begonia time in the lath house, they are growing very fast and need plenty of water. For best blooms keep off the seed pods. Stake just before they need it as the stalk is merely hinged to the tuber and when making the tie allow for growth and use a soft string. I have been looking for the right kind for ages and found it at last and of all places in a butcher shop where it serves to tie up your round rib roast. It is very soft but quite heavy cotton. Instead of tying

a double knot use a single one with the ends twisted twice, this will hold and can be easily loosened. It is not easy to get the stake in where you want it and not puncture the tuber but almost all these plants have the Begonia one sided habit and generally it can be slipped in on the back side. Now and then among these tubers comes one that makes one gigantic leaf on a short stalk and calls it a day, these hardly ever make a flower, perhaps if the stalk were pushed off the tuber they might try again and do better. I have a very aggravating instance as the tag says it was a remarkable flower last year. I do not remember a season without a few of these.

The Lloydii Tuberous have evidently liked the cool season for I have never seen the flowers so big and so colorful. There is a danger of getting the flowers of this type too big for hanging basket work, in fact I lean towards the single bloomers with flowers that fairly float in the air like butterflies. A new single with a long pistil like a hibiscus flower is very charming, and a sturdy stemmed upright grower promises well for a pot plant.

Twice this week I have been asked whether it would not be better to wait till the Fall to set out Begonias, so let me say that Begonias move best when in vigorous growth, in fact they resent it during their resting time.

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CIRCULATION

Members of the San Diego Floral Association will undoubtedly be interested to know what a wide circulation, geographically speaking, their magazine, the California Garden, has. There are subscribers in 18 states outside of California, including Hawaii. Copies are kept on file in a number of public libraries throughout the country, among them being the University of Illinois Library, the New York City Public Library, the United States Department of Agriculture Library and the Florida Experiment Station Library.

Of unusual interest is the fact that some 22 copies are sent to foreign countries, England, Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Chile, Ecuador and Palestine, two copies going to Jerusalem.

Contributors to The Garden may be very sure that whatever they write for the magazine has a hearing and influence far beyond local bounds.

Mrs. A. W. Kidder of Berkeley, Calif., has lately sent to friends in San Diego fine pressed specimens of the Edelweiss that she has grown from seed. This flower is the national flower of Switzerland and its habitat is among the rocky crags of the mountains.

It doesn't grow everywhere as our California poppy will grow, so it seems a real feat to have grown it so well in Berkeley. The Edelweiss is also found in Siberia, Japan and China.

K. O. S.

JULY WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO

By Dean Blake.

Our summer may be said to begin in July. While clouds persist night and morning near the coast, in the interior valleys the weather is clear practically all of the time. The temperature in the littoral districts is remarkably mild and even, never hot or cold. Since the record began on one day only has the temperature exceeded 90 during July. Much higher temperatures and greater ranges between day and night, however, are recorded immediately back from the coast.

The month is rainless except for an occasional light shower, the westward drift from Sonora storms in the higher elevations. Usually the sun breaks through the clouds between 8 and 10 a. m., and shines the rest of the day until sunset.

High winds are unknown during the month, but the velocity during the day is high enough to modify the effects of the bright sunlight.

Since 1872 the highest temperature recorded in any July was 93 in 1911; the lowest, 54 in 1884. Only four times has the rainfall totaled more than .10 inch during the month. Humidity is high, the relative averaging 81 per cent for all observations. The prevailing winds are northwest, and the 24 hour average is 7 miles an hour. There has never been a velocity over 30 miles per hour.

THE POLLINATION OF WILD FLOWERS

By Dr. L. H. Pammel.

This is one of the phases of biology that is extremely important, and vital to plant life. It is also an extremely interesting study. Darwin, Mueller, Asa Gray, Trelease, and others, have given us much fine thought on this subject. The first important step in the life of the plant and animal kingdom is reproduction. Propagation occurs either through asexual or sexual reproduction. The continuous self-fertilization of plants is harmful to the plant. Cross-fertilization is important. Nature is thorough. There are never two individuals in the same environment that are exactly the same. The soil of two plants growing in nearly the same place varies, hence environment is different. So this cross-fertilization brings in some new element to assure proper propagation of the species. Nature is thorough as is proven by the number of plants and animals on the earth's surface. There are some plants which are continuously self-fertilized. In some cases we find that the plants are cross-fertilized in the spring, but self-fertilized in the fall, so that seed would carry over the winter as the product of cross-fertilization.

FOUNTAINS ADD BEAUTY TO GARDEN

"To some lovers of nature no garden, however beautiful, is considered quite complete without a silvery plume of water from a sculptured figure, a tinkling stream from a wall fountain, or the grace of a placid, shining pool," writes Helen Bishop in the June issue of Arts and Decoration Magazine.

"The sound, the sight, even the ineffable smell of running water must be linked with some ancient, deeply-buried memory in the human consciousness; a memory that goes back through an era to the one preceding until it finds its origin before the dawn of history. Animals, of course, even the most domesticated, have a sixth sense about water. A weary, thirsty horse may be miles from a lake or rushing river, but there comes a moment when he lifts his head, gives a little whinny of eagerness and starts off with new born vigor. Across forests, down dusty roads, there has come to him the life-giving smell of fresh water," continues the Arts and Decoration article.

Humans are much like that; the desire for water is primitive and insistent. Small wonder then that it seems so vitally important in a garden and that no garden seems complete without the tinkling sound of water dripping into a basin or the soft rush of a little stream which flows from a wall fountain or comes tumbling down into a rock garden. Or if neither of these fountains are practical or suitable, there may be a placid pool in which lilies grow and in the depths of which one sees an occasional glint from a slowly moving fish, made lazy by the sun and summer. Nowadays one need not feel that a fountain or a piece of garden sculpture means a tremendous expenditure of money. Small, beautiful figures, either in marble or bronze, suitable for the smaller garden are well within the reach of the modest purse. The larger original pieces of sculpture are suitable, of course, for a large estate which gives them a background and an appropriate spaciousness. For a small-walled garden in which space must be conserved in order to avoid the appearance of crowding one flower too closely against another, a wall fountain may be used.

"For the Spanish house which in this country has become extremely popular not only in California, but in Florida and in certain sections of the north, a tiled fountain or pool is decorative and appropriate, with perhaps a tiled panel sunk into the garden wall behind the pool.

"In addition to a fountain—which may be regarded almost as a necessity—the garden may have a decorative sculptured figure or two, a bird bath or bench on which one may rest and enjoy the beauties of 'fringed pool, fern grot.'

"Garden sculpture, in this country, is a comparatively recent development. In the pioneer days, those sturdy people were too

RAINFORD FLOWER SHOP



Cut Flowers
Floral Designs

1115 Fourth Street

San Diego

preoccupied with the stern necessities of life to be able to give time or thought to cultivating beautiful surroundings for their dwellings. The housewife planted old fashioned flowers, hollyhocks and phlox and larkspur to satisfy her longing for a garden. A century later, in the '80's, when a wave of enthusiasm swept over the country for those native and ridiculous iron dogs and deer that appeared over night on smooth green lawns, few people thought of sculptured figures for their gardens. Occasionally, one saw an iron monstrosity, composed of lumpy cupids, upholding a heavy basin which soon turned rusty and was a pathetic sight indeed. But in Europe the fountain or pool always has been the 'soul of the garden' as one poet calls it." —S. D. Union.

Mr. A. Gottesburen of La Mesa is having splendid success with the Vanderbilt strain of delphiniums at his La Mesa cut flower nursery and another season will be growing plants from his own seed, which generally makes for success for the sooner the fresh seed is planted the more robust are the plants. San Diego has so much variety in climatic conditions that she can grow a very great variety of plants, when the experienced grower handles the varieties, and yet there is always a lot to be learned in planting here.

K. O. S.

Patronize the Garden Advertisers.

MY GARDEN COMES OF AGE

By Julia H. Cummins.

(The MacMillan Co., New York, 1926—\$3.00)

Our subject assumes to be no learned treatise,—rather it is a free and rambling relation of the history of a country garden in up-state New York. Nor is the account by any means confined to the quadrilateral of the garden proper, despite the title selected. The remodeling of an old house, the addition of new structural units, the treatment of a fortunate bit of woodland, all come in for a chapter in due order. Gossipy and intimate to a degree, the book frankly confesses this garden builder's mistakes, discusses the lessons of import to be drawn, and recounts the final triumphs attained in the solution of the more interesting problems.

Even the most seasoned horticulturist will find entertainment in so engaging a tale of garden evolution, and the novice no small amount of helpful information. The volume would be an appropriate gift book to any young couple about to begin the elaboration of their first garden. S. S. B.

FLORIDA WILD FLOWERS

By Mary Francis Baker.

(The MacMillan Co., New York, 1926—\$3.00)

Those familiar with our native California flora will find much to interest them by comparison or contrast in this little handbook of the flowers of that other far southern stretch of seaboard across the continent, while those who are ever a-questing new plants from regions of corresponding climate for their possible adaptation to our own gardens will welcome a compact readable summary of the wild plant resources of Florida varying from the great magnolia to "the tiny wolffia, smallest of known flowering plants, whose entire growth floating in the water is smaller than the head of a common pin."

The two floras are indeed extraordinarily different. The Mexican element which so strongly tints the typical Californian landscape is scarcely in evidence in Florida. There are but a very few Cactaceae and these mainly prickly pears, few of the evening primrose clan, and very few indeed it would seem of those three somewhat allied families, the waterleaves, phloxes, and borages, which are of such high consequence with us. There are not nearly so many Eriogonums, the buttercup family seems poorly represented as well as the Papaveraceae and Rosaceae, and there is but a scanty development of the Ceanothus and other buckthorns. One Liliaceae and two Yuccas are the principal Liliaceae. There is a fair number of mints and figworths among the latter being included the lovely Gerardia, but these groups again show nothing of the rich speciation flaunted in California. With but four pines and two Taxodiaceae, true conifers are scanty.

On the other hand the tropical influence is

developed in the Floridan flora, especially at the extreme south of the Peninsula, quite beyond anything that we see here. There are at least two cycads, over a dozen palms, including an indigenous species of the glorious Royal Palm, various Araceae, various members of the pineapple family, including the aberrant "Spanish Moss" (Dendropogon) and the Tillandsias, many more Amaryllids than we have, a Canna, a much richer Orchid flora (several of the species epiphytic and one a vine), a Ficus, several species of the custard-apple, mangrove, sapodilla, and passion flower families, and several Perseas and Eugeniaceae. The element in the eastern American flora so nearly allied to that of China is well represented, as would be suspected when the Magnolias, Diospyros, Gordonia, and Osmanthus are recalled.

An interesting feature is the rather extraordinary number, over 20 species in all, of carnivorous plants, — numerous sundews, pitcher plants, butterworts, bladderworts,—a sinister but fascinating assemblage. The many lovely Convolvulaceae, principally Ipomoeas, should also be noted.

Under the Iridaceae only *Iris versicolor*, a *Nemastylis*, and two *Sisyrinchiums* are included. The magnificent *Iris savannarum*, so characteristic of the south-central swamps, is inexplicably omitted, even though inclusion of all of the 3000 species of flowering plants said to occur in the Florida peninsula could hardly be accomplished in a popular treatise of this type. S. S. B.

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San Fernando, Calif.

DALEA SPINOSA

Some one from down on the desert, brought into market a quantity of *Dalea spinosa* branches, which the Broadway Florist bought. This peculiar shrub or small tree is of a silvery gray color, and without foliage, the slender branches tipped with a sharp point. When in bloom, it is a gorgeous sight. The flowers are indigo blue, borne along the stems, after the manner of the "Red Bud" flowers of the East. These branches were about 1 inch in diameter, 4 feet long, tied in bunches of three, and sold for a dollar a bunch. This is a case which should have the attention of foresters, and the vandalism stopped.—P. D. B. in Florists Exchange.

CUPHEA MICROPETALA

Cuphea micropetala is possibly one of the best of the genus. The stems are shrubby, more or less branched, about two feet high, the flowers are borne in succession at a point above the axis of the leaves. The calyx is over one inch long, scarlet at the base, yellow towards the top and greenish at the mouth. Grown as a specimen in a seven or eight inch pot it is a subject that attracts attention whenever seen. It is easily propagated by cuttings in February and March, and if grown on during the summer and finally potted into the above mentioned pots the first week in August, it will begin to flower during September, continuing for over two months. It is a native of Mexico, and compares most favorably with the better known *Cuphea ignea*. It only needs to be known better to be grown more extensively.—Francis Lazenby, Botanic Garden, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

NOTES

Wet your flower pots before planting in them. See that there is a layer of coarse gravel or pieces of broken pots in the bottom for drainage. If you have no pots or gravel the coarse sand or even moss is better than nothing at all. Flower pots buried half way or fully buried in sand or soil will not dry out so much as the unburied pots.

21ST ANNUAL FALL**FLOWER SHOW**

Sept. 3rd, 4th and 5th

Names of Show Chairmen will be published in the next issue. Plan to make an exhibit this year.

ROOTING CARNATIONS UNDER GLASS

Select strong shoots for cuttings and strike them in sand so as to have a fresh supply of plants coming on. These are placed in benches on the ground approximately sixteen or eighteen inches apart, and cross wires stretched from one side of the bench to the other in each direction so as to train the plants and keep them from sprawling. Usually two or three tiers are necessary. Some people use circular wire frames, which are made especially for carnations. These are about one foot to one and a half feet high, and placed in the ground around the plants so as to support them. Carnations like a medium light soil containing plenty of sand and a generous supply of bone meal to develop good growth. A small amount of potash will prevent split-calyx to a certain extent. They require a shading of the greenhouse in the summer time to prevent burning of the flowers. This is done by applying whitewash. Carnations should never be allowed to dry out in summer, nor should they be kept too damp, or they will be affected with Rust, which is a disease of leaves and stems. Occasionally they will be affected with Blight, and should be removed with the soil immediately and burned.—J. W. Shepherd in California Cultivator.

Most of us grow the same old plants year after year. Of course we all delight in doing what we do well. After experimenting with a particular flower and learning all about it we give it preference over some flower we know nothing about. Flowers, however, like field crops will do better if we rotate the crop. The same ground planted year after year to the same flower is liable to encourage all of the pests and diseases acquired by that particular plant. Experiment with some novelties and try growing something you never grew before. The pleasure of watching the new plants develop will more than offset some of the possible failures. And you will probably find some uncommon plant particular adapted to your locality.

We grow quality stock suitable for this climate. Ornamentals, flowering and decorative plants for Home and Garden. Large assortment of Bulbs, Begonias, Cinerarias, Cyclamen, Snapdragon, Primulae, etc. Come and look us over. Cut flowers for all occasions.

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